

Message Text

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15

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 EUR-25 NEA-10 AID-20 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 ACDA-19

EB-11 DRC-01 /187 W

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R 110412Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2756

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 1452

E.9. 11652: GDS

SUBJ: ECAFE- PRG AND KHMER ISSUES

AT 30TH SESSION

REF: A) STATE 046743

B) STATE 046584

C) GENEVA 1465 (NOTAL)

1. AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT, DESPITE SOME PRESSURES WITHIN CABINET TO RECOGNIZE PRG AND FUNK/GRUNCK , HAS SO FAR STEADFASTLY HELD TO POSITION THAT IT RECOGNIZES ONLY GVN AND GDR WITHIN SOUTH VIET -NAM AND CAMBODIA, RESPECTIVELY. AT GENEVA CONFERENCE ON LAW OF WAR VOTE ON PRG ADMISSION FEB 28, GOA VOTED AGAINST SUCH ADMISSION (REF B) WE ARE INFORMED BY REF C THAT A VOTE ON GRUNK ADMISSION HAD NOT COME UP AT LAW OF WAR CONFERENCE.

2. WE KNOW, FROM RECENT EXPLORATION OF DIFFERENCES WITH AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT, THAT PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM ENTER-TAINS CONSIDERABLE DOUBTS ABOUT LEGITIMACY OF GDR AND ABOUT STAYING POWER OF GVN. WE WILL BE WORKING ON BOTH POINTS IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE. HOWEVER, THERE IS
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NO RPT NO EVIDENCE THAT GOA HAS CHANGED ITS POSITION

ON PRG AND GRUNK REPRESENTATION INTERNATIONALLY. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH REF A, TO ASK THE GOA TO REAFFIRM ITS POSITION ON THIS SUBJECT, SO SOON AFTER WE HAVE BEEN OVER THE GROUND. ASKING FOR REAFFIRMATION OF THIS POSITION AT THIS POINT MIGHT CONVEY TO GOA IMPRESSION THAT WE ARE DOUBTFUL GKR AND GVN HAVE MUCH STAYING POWER, WHEREAS OUR STATED POSITION IS THAT BOTH HAVE PROSPECTS FOR SURVIVAL RANGING BETWEEN REASONABLE AND VERY GOOD.

3. WE WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR THIS SENSITIVE POSITION WITH THE GOA BUT BELIEVE THAT, FOR TIME BEING, OUR INTERESTS BEST SERVED BY NOT ASKING FOR REAFFIRMATION OF AUSTRALIAN POSITION CONVEYED TO US IN PAST TWO WEEKS.
GREEN

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